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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 5 March 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement concerning the upsurge of violence in Kosovo issued on 3 March 1998 by the Presidency of the European Union.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and of its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) John WESTON
Permanent Representative

* A/53/50.

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement concerning the upsurge of violence in Kosovo issued on 3 March 1998 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union is deeply concerned by the violent incidents in Kosovo over the past few days. The European Union unreservedly condemns the violent repression of non-violent expressions of political views, including peaceful demonstrations, as well as the use of violence and terrorism to achieve political goals. It regrets that police action led directly to civilian casualties. The European Union urges all sides to exercise restraint and refrain from further violence, and calls on the Serbian law enforcement agencies to respect fully human rights and the rule of law in the pursuit of their duties. The European Union reiterates its call as a matter of urgency for the authorities in Belgrade and leaders of the Kosovar Albanian community to resolve the situation peacefully through a full and constructive dialogue.